Dear Howard,

11/6/77

When you respond please include a copy of the notes I've made on the records we both received from Rhoads in respond to your Memo of transfer efforts. My language in writing Paul about this is not accidental. I don't want you to have any problems from his judgement or those he still trusts and deals with, like Walton. The potential for good from all this evil is too great.

Do not regard my notes as definitive. Please try to find more time than I've taken for a careful examination of these records. While I'll be going back to Rhoads on this in a way other than you will, I strongly urge you to make your own independent demand for the still-withheld records. They are referred to in those provided. I think this should include all the Marshall-GSA contact.

In the Kennedy family part I'm still not persuaded that it had personal possession of the withheld materials. I am persuaded that the possession when not overtly in the regular agencies, like SS, was by the Kennedy library, which is Archives. As these records show, to the time of transfer I was correct in saying that it was not Burkley but SS that had possession. This makes the Burkley signature something to consider because in fact he did not have possession yet signed the papers, etc.

There is a record of your and my association as of 1969. I'll be addressing this to Rhoads one way. I think you should in your own way. No such record is included, it is relevent to your request and it certainly is within my PA request.

It will not be lost on you that all these records are within my earlier, including PA requests. From this a) why were they withheld and b) why are then now released?

Be extremely careful in reading. This is a treasure of evil. Gets the self-disclosures by and about Johnson, who I learn for the first time is a lawyer rather than a professional archivist as I'd assumed. In particular such things as what he said about Ford, the 1/27 transcript and the real reasons for withholding it. (I may make use of this now but if I do it will be with a call to you pursuits. I have Lee Whitten in mind.)

I must hasten to get onto 1996 matters as soon as possible. But let me also call to your attention their actual practise on pictures that were copyrighted prior to their desire to withhold JFK pictures.

There is much of this significant nature in these records.

Jim has a problem from the immunity to a deliberate-tort defense. Have you any suggestions?

You've done great in this!

Lay on!